Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03801 240816Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /061 W

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R 240716Z MAR 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9595 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY TAIPEI AMEMBASSY TOKYO USLO PEKING CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SPOP, CH

SUBJ: TENG ACKNOWLEDGES A POPULATION OF 900 MILLION

- 1. DURING A MARCH 23 DISCUSSION IN PEKING WITH VISITING WEST GERMAN CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION LEADER DR. FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMAN.

 VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING STATED (ACCORDING TO ZIMMERMAN), "YEAS WAR WILL ONE DAY COME BUT THE RUSSIANS CAN NEVER WIN IT BECAUSE EVEN IF THEY OCCUPY THE WHOLE OF NORTHEAST CHINA, INCLUDING PEKING, THEY WILL AVE OCCUPIED ONLY 200 MILLION PEOPLE AND WE WILL STILL HAVE 700 MILLION LEFT". (REUTERS, MARCH 23).
- 2. WHILE TOTAL POPULATION FIGURES OF 900 MILLION AND ABOVE HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN MENTIONED BY LOW-LEVEL PRC CADRE TO FOREIGN VISITORS IN THE PAST, THIS IS THE FIRST DEPARTURE BY THE TOP LEADERSHIP FROM THE STANDARD QUOTATION OF 800 MILLION. SHOESMITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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